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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

VOLUME 62 NUMBER 17

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

LATE NEWS

Private sources have recently estimated the 1950-51 cotton crop in Pakistan at about 1,150,000 bales (500 pounds gross weight). This is considerably above an official estimate of around 900,000 bales made several months ago. This official forecast reported a 9 percent increase in area planted to American-type cotton over the preceding season with a corresponding decrease in the area planted to Asiatic short-staple types. In 1950-51, according to the official report, American-type cotton was planted on 89 percent of the 2,944,000 acres planted to cotton. This total includes 270,000 acres of cotton subsequently reported as destroyed or damaged by flood.

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The Government of Brazil has prohibited further exports of cotton until the internal market has been assured of an ample supply, according to Brazilian press reports dated April 4, 1951. In addition, the Government was asked to approve recently completed studies related to commercial treaties with countries which are interested in buying Brazilian cotton, and to implement commitments made under treaties already officially approved.

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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to inform producers, processors, distributors and consumers of farm products of current developments abroad in the crop and livestock industries, foreign trends in prices and consumption of farm products, and world agricultural trade. Circulation of this periodical is free to those needing the information it contains in farming, business and professional operations. Issued by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

WORLD SHEEP NUMBERS IN 1950 AND 1951 1/

World sheep numbers at the beginning of 1951 are estimated by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations at 762 million head compared with 734 million head a year earlier. This represents an increase of 4 percent and places current numbers 2 percent above the 1936-40 prewar average. The gain during 1950 was the largest increase for any one of the postwar years. Sheep producers, reacting to strong wool prices and generally favorable weather conditions, were encouraged in 1950 to expand flocks. The expansion was greatest in the major producing areas, but gains in other countries were important.

In most parts of the world, prices for wool, prospective prices for mutton and lamb, and the over-all economic situation, as well as the current favorable grazing outlook, indicate a continued rise in sheep and lamb numbers during 1951. If the policy of expanding numbers is generally followed, it will result in fewer sheep and lambs for slaughter; therefore the sheep industry cannot be looked to for any contribution toward increased meat supplies this year. Beyond 1951 the trend will be governed largely by weather conditions and by the demand for wool, including that for military purposes.

Sheep numbers at the beginning of 1951 in most of the important sheep-producing countries were either increased or maintained near their early 1950 level. Substantial gains were estimated for Australia, New Zealand, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, Argentina, Uruguay, Spain, Greece, Iran, Algeria, Syria, French Morocco and Tunisia, while declines were reported in Turkey and Western Germany. Despite the continued advancement of numbers in many countries and the reversal of downward trends in others, such important sheep-producing countries as the United States, the United Kingdom, China, India, Algeria, Tunisia and the Union of South Africa continue to be under their respective prewar levels. Iran and French Morocco, reported below their 1936-40 averages last year, are now believed to have equaled or exceeded their prewar levels.

In the United States and Canada sheep numbers have increased slightly and have reversed the decline started during, or shortly after, the war period. The strong demand for wool has made sheep producing a more profitable enterprise and contributed greatly to flock expansion. Argentina and Uruguay, both important South American sheep countries, reported gains. Increases generally were associated with favorable wool prices and greatly improved pasture conditions. The outlook is good for additional gains, although at the expense of cattle in Uruguay.

1/ A more extensive statement will be published soon as a Foreign Agriculture Circular, available upon request from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

SHEEP: Number in specified countries, averages 1936-40 and 1941-45, annual 1946-1951

Continent and country	Month of 1/ estimate	Average 1936-40	Average 1941-45	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950 2/	1951 2/
		Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
NORTH AMERICA									
Canada	Dec. 1 1/	2,651	2,710	2,456	1,782	1,587	1,322	1,259	1,268
Guatemala	July	273	3/ 406	-	-	1/ 618	1/ 618	610	-
Mexico	Dec. 31 1/	4/ 5/ 4,809	3/ 4,632	-	-	-	5,100	5,100	5,100
United States	Jan. 1	51,404	52,517	42,436	37,818	34,827	31,654	30,743	31,505
Estimated total		62,700	60,800	51,200	46,000	42,900	39,200	38,200	39,000
EUROPE									
Albania		3/ 1,576	-	1,700	-	-	-	-	-
Austria	Dec. 3 1/	3/ 316	400	391	399	474	454	375	363
Belgium	Jan. 1	4/ 187	193	177	144	107	113	121	-
Bulgaria	Dec. 31 1/	8,746	8,782	7,800	8,784	-	-	-	-
Czechoslovakia	Jan. 1	3/ 492	511	510	491	386	459	480	-
Denmark	July 15	4/ 147	3/ 198	170	91	77	65	61	-
Finland	Mar. 1	6/ 1,007	833	1,099	982	999	1,067	5/ 1,330	-
France 7/	Fall 1/	9,648	7,162	6,632	7,259	7,406	7,510	7,480	7,470
Germany - Western	Dec. 1 1/	3/ 1,889	3/ 2,327	2,258	2,250	2,352	2,492	2,020	1,642
Greece	Dec. 31 1/	3/ 8,304	-	6,262	7,205	7,056	6,631	6,337	7,149
Hungary	Spring	1,490	1,207	7/ 370	7/ 488	7/ 590	650	-	-
Iceland	Spring	624	595	511	-	1/ 505	1/ 454	1/ 439	1/ 420
Ireland	June	3,076	2,681	2,423	2,094	2,058	2,192	2,385	-
Italy	July	4/ 9,350	8,400	8,600	8,800	9,190	10,100	1/ 10,376	1/ 10,400
Netherlands	May	636	496	558	460	425	464	390	-
Norway	June 20	1,742	1,715	1,707	1,698	1,629	1,736	1,812	-
Poland	June 30	4/ 1,941	-	7/ 759	7/ 983	1,406	1,621	-	-
Portugal	Dec. 31 1/	8/ 3,948	3,800	3,900	4,000	4,000	-	-	-
Rumania	Dec. 31 1/	3/ 10,176	-	6,799	7,100	-	-	-	-
Spain	Dec. 31 1/	4/ 20,000	3/ 23,509	20,183	-	-	22,000	23,000	26,000
Sweden	Summer	398	486	482	421	349	311	279	-
Switzerland	April	3/ 177	200	196	182	170	-	-	-
United Kingdom	June	26,112	20,881	20,358	16,713	18,164	19,493	20,430	-
Yugoslavia	Dec. 31 1/	9,796	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Estimated total		123,700	113,100	101,600	102,100	105,600	111,100	113,600	118,100
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia)	Jan. 1	4/ 66,000	-	61,100	60,800	64,800	74,000	78,000	86,000
ASIA									
Cyprus 9/	March	300	303	315	313	291	304	304	-
Iran	Mar. 21	14,497	13,854	12,950	13,190	13,200	11,100	13,572	14,672
Iraq	Jan. 1	3/ 7,090	3/ 6,719	7,424	-	-	7,077	7,489	8,520
Syria	Dec. 31 1/	3/ 2,060	2,539	3,091	3,260	3,176	2,843	2,443	2,707
Trans-Jordan		216	293	-	-	-	-	-	-
Turkey	Dec. 31 1/	21,656	23,641	23,386	23,528	24,496	25,949	23,071	22,128
China 10/	May	26,000	22,000	20,000	22,000	-	-	-	-
India	Jan. 1	4/ 41,000	4/ 38,000	-	-	-	-	38,900	38,900
Indonesia	Dec. 31 1/	3/ 1,614	-	-	1,610	-	-	1,740	-
Pakistan	Jan. 1	4/ 8,000	4/ 6,000	-	-	6,150	-	-	-
Estimated total		152,600	145,300	143,900	146,800	147,200	146,000	146,300	147,800

SOUTH AMERICA									
Argentina	July	3/ 44,900	3/ 52,288	55,000	11/ 54,000	50,000	45,000	47,000	50,000
Bolivia	Dec. 31 1/	4/ 2,608	3/ 3,987	-	4,289	4,534	4,195	-	-
Brazil		3/ 11,438	11,346	15,543	16,000	16,000	-	-	-
Chile	June	3/ 5,855	3/ 6,057	5,900	6,000	6,328	6,000	6,000	-
Colombia	Dec. 31 1/	916	1,240	1,168	-	1,013	1,061	1,200	-
Ecuador		-	3/ 1,400	-	-	1,802	-	-	-
Paraguay	Dec. 31 1/	3/ 159	3/ 203	255	306	337	252	202	206
Peru		4/ 14,900	16,200	17,288	-	1/ 17,288	-	17,748	-
Uruguay	May	4/ 17,931	4/ 20,289	19,559	-	22,000	22,000	25,000	1/ 26,000
Estimated total		100,900	113,700	121,100	122,400	120,000	114,500	120,000	124,300
AFRICA									
Algeria 9/		6,180	6,071	2,808	3,145	3,105	3,839	4,531	5,000
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan		3/ 2,500	-	-	4,800	-	-	-	-
Kenya		3/ 3,274	3/ 3,148	3,160	3,232	3,300	-	-	-
Tanganyika	Dec. 31 1/	1,780	2,001	2,216	2,366	2,316	2,153	-	-
Uganda	Mar. 31	1,285	1,007	-	1,008	1,037	-	-	-
Basutoland		1,443	4/ 1,545	-	1,703	-	-	-	-
Egypt	June	3/ 1,771	3/ 1,350	-	-	1,400	1,200	-	-
French Morocco 9/	Dec. 31 1/	9,976	12,172	8,620	6,031	7,423	8,474	9,149	10,000
French West Africa and Togo		3/ 8,674	8,260	-	-	9,100	-	-	-
Madagascar 9/	Dec. 31 1/	193	202	161	156	158	177	204	244
Mozambique	Dec. 31 1/	84	67	56	58	65	64	-	-
Northern Rhodesia	Dec. 31 1/	36	29	25	35	38	36	36	-
Southern Rhodesia	Dec. 31 1/	310	305	330	325	286	302	315	-
South West Africa		3/ 2,972	4/ 3,534	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spanish Morocco 9/		481	577	443	574	600	-	-	-
Tunisia 9/	Dec. 31 1/	3,026	3,250	2,976	1,783	1,752	1,587	1,894	2,390
Union of South Africa	August	39,899	4/ 37,888	30,832	30,723	32,612	31,908	-	-
Estimated total		100,000	101,400	88,800	86,400	89,900	90,200	91,000	93,700
OCEANIA									
Australia	Mar. 31	1/ 112,571	120,209	96,396	95,723	102,559	108,735	112,891	118,000
New Zealand	Apr. 30	31,352	3/ 32,976	33,000	32,682	32,483	32,845	33,852	-
Estimated total		144,000	153,200	129,400	128,400	135,100	141,600	146,800	152,800
Estimated world total		749,900	754,500	697,100	692,900	705,500	716,600	733,900	761,700

1/ End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. Thus for Canada the December 1, 1945 estimate of 2,456,000 head is shown under 1946. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Average for 2 to 4 years only. 4/ Census or estimate for single year. 5/ June. 6/ March. 7/ Official statistics; may be underestimates of actual numbers. 8/ Census, December 31, 1940. 9/ Data include only number taxed. 10/ Includes China Proper (22 provinces), Manchuria, Jehol and Sinkiang (Turkestan). 11/ The census of May 10-12, 1947, reported 50,857,000 sheep on farms.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of the United States Foreign Service officers, and other information. Data for countries having changed boundaries relate to present territory, unless otherwise noted. Totals include estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable.

The trend in European sheep and lamb numbers has been upward since 1945 and totals are now near the 1936-40 average. Sheep numbers in the United Kingdom increased materially but it is not likely that they will reach the prewar level in view of the competition of dairy animals. The sheep populations of Spain and Greece, two of the larger sheep producing countries in Europe, increased, being favored with good weather conditions. Numbers in Spain are considerably above prewar, but flocks in war-devastated Greece are still somewhat under prewar. Sheep and lamb numbers were maintained in Italy but fell off in Western Germany and Austria.

According to available information, sheep numbers in the Soviet Union are considerably above the 1936-40 prewar level, having increased substantially during 1950. The postwar increase is attributed to intensive breeding programs and some acquisitions from outside areas.

Asiatic sheep numbers during 1950 were maintained near the level of the previous year and are very close to the prewar level. Gains in Iran, Iraq and Syria more than offset declines in Turkey and Pakistan. The sheep populations of India and China reflected little change and continued to be below prewar levels.

In Africa, sheep and lamb numbers rose because of favorable grazing conditions. Numbers in French Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Madagascar were increased, while other countries showed minor gains, or merely maintained flocks at the level of the previous year.

Australian sheep numbers increased substantially because of strong wool prices and now are equal to the total sheep population of Europe. Extremely favorable pasture conditions contributed to the increase during 1950. Numbers are above the 1936-40 prewar level and should continue to rise, but this tendency may be limited by disease and parasite problems. In New Zealand, numbers are the highest since 1945 and well above prewar.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crops and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service reports.

U.S. FOREIGN TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS DURING FEBRUARY 1951 [1]

United States agricultural exports in February 1951, the eighth month of the fiscal year 1950-51, reached $307,519,000 in value, the highest level of the current marketing year. Agricultural exports during February 1950 were valued at only $240,672,000. The country's exports of all commodities, agricultural as well as nonagricultural, were valued at $1,058,132,000 against $755,923,000 in the same month last year. Agricultural products constituted 29 percent of the total during the month under review compared with 32 percent during February 1950.

On a value basis, cotton continued as the most important agricultural export, shipments during the month being valued at $98,467,000. This represented a reduction of 6 percent from the $105,080,000 worth exported during February last year. Wheat and flour remained in second position, with shipments valued at $75,932,000 compared with $45,638,000 a year ago, an increase of 66 percent. Corn took third position, shipments reaching $21,398,000 in value against $12,920,000 in February a year ago, an increase of 66 percent.

On a quantitative basis, the outstanding features of the February 1951 agricultural exports, compared with February a year earlier, were the large increases in exports of cheese, dried eggs, pork, tallow, grapefruit, oranges, canned fruits, fruit juices, barley, corn, grain sorghums, rice, wheat and flour, peanuts, soybeans and soybean flour, field and garden seeds, and dried beans. On the other hand, large reductions are revealed in exports of condensed and evaporated milk, nonfat dry milk solids, lard, cotton, apples, dried prunes, raisins and currants, soybean oil and white potatoes.

Agricultural imports on the whole continued their upward trend, reaching $476,295,000 in value during the month under review compared with $295,312,000 in the same month a year ago, an increase of 61 percent. The country's imports of all commodities, both agricultural and nonagricultural, amounted in value to $906,460,000 compared with $590,347,000 in February last year. Agricultural products constituted 53 percent of the total compared with 50 percent during February 1950. As usual the commodities heading the list and far in the lead of any other agricultural imports were coffee, rubber, wool and sugar.

On a quantitative basis, the outstanding features revealed by the February 1951 imports, compared with those for the same month a year ago, were the large increases in imports of cheese, canned and corned beef, jute, olives in brine, prepared or preserved pineapples, shelled almonds, cashew nuts, copra, palm oil, tobacco, white potatoes, fresh tomatoes, cotton and coffee. On the other hand, the figures for the month under review reveal large quantitative reductions in imports of cattle, wool, apples, barley malt, hops, castor beans, tung oil, and cocoa or cacao beans.

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[1] Fuller details than presented in this summary will be published in United States Foreign Trade in Agricultural Products for February 1951, available on request from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

UNITED STATES: Summary of exports, domestic, of selected agricultural products, during February 1950 and 1951

Commodity exported	Unit	February Quantity 1950	February Quantity 1951	February Value 1950	February Value 1951
				1,000	1,000
ANIMAL PRODUCTS:		Thousands	Thousands	dollars	dollars
Butter	Lb.	251	1,279	162	267
Cheese	Lb.	269	10,328	119	2,018
Milk, condensed	Lb.	2,869	1,969	636	454
Milk, whole, dried	Lb.	3,654	4,483	1,754	2,516
Nonfat dry milk solids	Lb.	32,890	13,653	1,289	1,221
Milk, evaporated	Lb.	14,306	8,995	1,828	1,163
Eggs, dried	Lb.	46	978	38	233
Beef and veal, total 1/	Lb.	1,078	924	443	384
Pork, total 1/	Lb.	4,179	7,755	1,201	2,055
Horse meat	Lb.	1,706	986	260	108
Lard (including neutral)	Lb.	69,966	32,277	8,484	6,435
Tallow, edible and inedible	Lb.	27,385	43,299	2,072	7,661
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Cotton, unmfd, excl. linters (480 lb.)	Bale	679	447	105,080	98,467
Apples, fresh	Lb.	34,516	24,498	1,731	811
Grapefruit, fresh	Lb.	8,825	13,676	394	501
Oranges, fresh	Lb.	25,390	36,474	1,420	1,933
Pears, fresh	Lb.	2,127	1,276	187	94
Prunes, dried	Lb.	31,619	1,694	2,045	302
Raisins and currants	Lb.	26,188	1,770	1,219	299
Fruits, canned	Lb.	4,566	8,150	608	1,380
Fruit juices	Gal.	1,355	2,389	1,302	2,174
Barley, grain (48 lb.)	Bu.	331	4,209	394	6,059
Barley malt (34 lb.)	Bu.	219	350	559	898
Corn, grain (56 lb.)	Bu.	8,601	11,590	12,920	21,398
Grain sorghums (56 lb.)	Bu.	2,059	6,521	2,868	8,905
Rice, milled, brown, etc.	Lb.	36,432	64,814	2,420	6,318
Wheat, grain (60 lb.)	Bu.	19,229	34,324	39,973	66,375
Flour, wholly of U.S. wheat (100 lb.)	Bag	1,164	1,882	4,167	8,510
Flour, other (100 lb.)	Bag	279	207	1,498	1,047
Hops	Lb.	1,668	1,642	1,327	1,448
Peanuts, shelled	Lb.	10,680	13,803	903	1,706
Soybeans (except canned)	Lb.	59,624	110,491	2,429	5,082
Soybean oil, crude and refined	Lb.	37,359	16,861	4,601	3,593
Soybean flour	Lb.	224	2,068	12	112
Seeds, field and garden	Lb.	1,561	3,275	614	1,109
Tobacco, bright flue-cured	Lb.	15,363	16,049	7,531	10,532
Tobacco, leaf, other	Lb.	3,685	3,994	1,880	2,309
Beans, dried	Lb.	3,717	16,758	304	963
Peas, dried	Lb.	2,488	2,643	133	166
Potatoes, white	Lb.	72,430	7,598	439	154
Vegetables, canned	Lb.	5,746	5,825	796	845
Total above				218,040	278,005
Food exported for relief, etc.				906	2,300
Other agricultural products				21,726	27,214
Total agricultural				240,672	307,519
Total all commodities				755,923	1,058,132

1/ Product weight.

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

UNITED STATES: Summary of imports for consumption of selected agricultural products during February 1950 and 1951

Commodity imported SUPPLEMENTARY	Unit	February Quantity 1950	 1951	 Value 1950	 1951
				1,000	1,000
ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS:		Thousands	Thousands	dollars	dollars
Cattle, dutiable	No.	33	22	4,951	5,444
Cattle, free (for breeding)	No.	1	2	397	580
Casein and lactarene	Lb.	5,398	4,493	708	1,482
Cheese	Lb.	6,845	9,063	2,359	3,308
Hides and skins	Lb.	19,948	17,263	6,845	7,994
Beef canned, incl. corned	Lb.	6,920	11,352	2,139	3,598
Wool, unmfd, excl. free, etc.	Lb.	38,052	35,735	22,080	40,779
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Cotton, unmfd., excl. linters (480 lb.)	Bale	71	94	14,470	25,861
Jute and jute butts, unmfd. (2,240 lb.)	Ton	3	20	767	5,434
Apples, green or ripe (50 lb.)	Bu.	344	218	698	529
Olives in brine	Gal.	856	1,405	1,425	2,607
Pineapples, prep. or preserved	Lb.	2,767	9,293	315	1,005
Barley malt	Lb.	8,675	6,603	412	370
Hops	Lb.	1,478	238	1,787	362
Almonds, shelled	Lb.	125	2,675	41	908
Brazil or cream nuts, not shelled	Lb.	0	0	0	0
Cashew nuts	Lb.	1,741	4,303	570	1,590
Coconut meat, shredded, etc.	Lb.	6,434	6,191	1,091	983
Castor beans	Lb.	26,605	10,854	1,361	822
Copra	Lb.	54,321	115,795	4,509	11,604
Flaxseed (56 lb.)	Bu.	2	0	6	0
Coconut oil	Lb.	10,729	10,311	1,422	1,625
Palm oil	Lb.	2,263	6,290	217	709
Tung oil	Lb.	3,758	1,770	840	597
Sugar, excl. beet (2,000 lb.)	Ton	272	390	27,615	41,017
Molasses, unfit for human consumption	Gal.	14,049	16,935	946	2,579
Tobacco, cigarette leaf	Lb.	4,584	6,129	3,293	3,994
Tobacco, other leaf	Lb.	1,137	1,279	1,789	2,215
Potatoes, white	Lb.	50,430	58,473	1,103	1,095
Tomatoes, natural state	Lb.	37,471	42,698	2,213	3,027
COMPLEMENTARY					
Wool, unmfd., free in bond	Lb.	36,598	14,488	12,993	12,913
VEGETABLE PRODUCTS:					
Bananas	Bunch	3,486	3,248	3,546	3,554
Coffee (ex. into Puerto Rico)	Lb.	207,832	280,866	84,607	139,342
Cocoa or cacao beans and shells	Lb.	94,469	58,316	19,713	19,424
Tea	Lb.	7,943	7,065	3,801	3,425
Spices (complementary)	Lb.	6,220	7,153	3,980	5,797
Sisal and henequen (2,240 lb.)	Ton	10	10	2,626	2,603
Rubber, crude	Lb.	121,351	122,500	19,218	63,447
Total above				256,853	422,623
Other agricultural products				38,459	53,672
Total agricultural products				295,312	476,295
Total all commodities				590,347	906,460

Compiled from official records, Bureau of the Census.

On balance, United States imports of agricultural products during the month of February 1951 exceeded the value of agricultural exports by $168,776,000. During the same month last year, agricultural imports exceeded agricultural exports in value by only $54,640,000. For the entire 8 months (July-February) of the current 1950-51 fiscal year, agricultural imports have exceeded the value of the country's agricultural exports by $1,253,200,000. In the same 8 months of 1949-50, agricultural imports exceeded the value of the agricultural exports by only $32,300,000.--By Leo J. Schaben.

MEDITERRANEAN BASIN OLIVE OIL PRODUCTION DOWN SHARPLY [1]

Olive oil production during the 1950-51 season in the principal olive-producing areas of the Mediterranean Basin is estimated at 590,300 short tons, according to the latest information available to the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. This is about one-half last season's abnormally large outturn of 1,183,600 tons and only two-thirds the average volume produced during the 5-year period ending in 1945. These estimates represent the total oil pressed including allowances made for consumption by growers in countries reporting only commercial production. Normally over 70 percent of the total production of Mediterranean olive oil originates in Spain, Italy, and Greece.

The sharp reductions from last season reported for most countries reflect principally the low yield characteristic of an "off-year" olive crop. Additional factors were unfavorable weather (principally drought) in many areas and severe insect attacks in some places.

A sizeable carry-over from last season's large output will compensate partially for the short crop in some countries whereas additional imports of vegetable seed oil will be necessary to meet consumption needs in others. Shortages will reduce supplies below normal consumption levels in several countries. The over-all decrease of almost 600,000 tons from last season also will reduce olive oil exports sharply. Only a few countries report surplus availabilities for export. In some cases the volume exported will depend upon imports of less-expensive vegetable seed oil.

The continued rise in olive oil prices since June, with the exception of minor fluctuations, has been a spectacular feature of developments in the last 10 months. Moreover, in view of the currently limited supply of olive oil, and the uncertainties of marketing prospects, prices may not decrease appreciably until the new crop arrives on the market next fall.

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[1] A more extensive statement soon will be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular available upon request from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

OLIVE OIL 1/: Estimated production in the Mediterranean Basin, average 1940-41/1944-45, annual 1946-47 to 1950-51

(Rounded to nearest 100 short tons)

Country	Average 1940-41/ 1944-45	1946-47	1947-48	1948-49	1949-50 2/	1950-51 2/
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Europe						
France	6,700	8,500	5,500	4,000	11,500	9,000
Greece	90,600	91,500	159,800	51,500	247,600	42,000
Italy	210,000	165,000	300,000	132,000	220,000	175,000
Portugal	63,900	49,200	102,900	31,900	108,600	44,000
Spain	351,300	428,000	598,600	156,900	350,000	175,000
Yugoslavia	2,900	4,600	4,000	2,500	-	-
Middle East						
Israel and Jordon 3/	7,500	1,600	3,300	3,000	2,000	-
Syria	(12,800	8,800	17,600	14,000	11,000	4,400
Lebanon	(	1,300	10,000	8,800	7,700	2,200
Turkey	42,400	35,300	52,900	33,100	55,000	50,000
Africa						
Algeria	27,000	20,000	22,000	25,000	25,000	20,000
French Morocco	12,200	19,800	20,000	11,500	16,500	13,000
Tunisia	38,400	20,900	19,800	46,300	115,700	44,000
Libya	2,500	800	1,000	1,700	9,000	8,500
Total	868,200	855,300	1,317,400	522,200	1,183,600	590,300

1/ Total oil pressed; excludes oil extracted from residue.
2/ Preliminary.
3/ Excluding territory formerly known as Transjordan.

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers, results of office research, and other information.

The total olive oil obtained by pressing in France during the 1950-51 season is estimated at 9,000 tons, less by 2,500 tons than in the previous season but larger by about the same tonnage than the 5-year average. The relatively small output has been attributed to the fact that this was a year of low output in the production cycle and to damage from the olive fly.

French olive oil consumption in 1950 is estimated at 27,600 tons or approximately 3 times the level of consumption in 1948 and 1949. This large increase was made possible by the resumption of imports from Tunisia for the first time since the end of the war. Prices during the first half of the year were driven to such a low point that it became profitable to import olive oil for the purpose of blending it with peanut oil. Consumption decreased notably, however, after mid-year as prices rose. Consumption in recent months is believed to have declined to the 1949 annual rate of 8,800 tons and is expected to continue at this level until oil from the new Tunisian crop begins to appear on the market next fall.

Greece's olive oil production is now estimated at 42,000 tons, the lowest recorded output since 1920 when production statistics were first compiled. This is only about one-sixth last season's estimated record outturn. Such low production is even more striking in veiw of the fact that the number of producing trees has increased in postwar years.

This past season's unusually low production has been attributed to: (1) extreme drought during the spring and summer, (2) hot, dry winds during most of the summer which ripened olives prematurely in some areas, (3) the record 1949 production of olives which, combined with (1) and (2) above, sapped the strength of the trees, and (4) concentrated Dacus fly attacks in the major producing areas.

Indigenous supplies, including the 1949-50 carry-over and the 1950-51 production are more than adequate to meet consumption needs estimated at 110,000 tons. However, the Government has plans to import 6,600 tons of fish and seed oil in an effort to stabalize the price of olive oil which has increased as a result of the withholding of supplies by producers.

Italian olive oil production is estimated officially at 175,000 tons, representing a decrease of one-fifth from last season and one-sixth from the 5-year average. Dacus fly infestation, drought, and poor flowering were responsible for the reduced output.

The short crop and low stocks existing at the beginning of the crop year will keep consumption low this year. However, since consumer preference for olive oil over seed oil is said to be diminishing constantly, especially in the North, the Government's efforts to encourage seed oil imports and direct Government purchases probably will succeed in maintaining per-capita oil consumption at current levels.

Portugal's production of olive oil is slightly higher than preliminary estimates had indicated. About 44,000 tons are believed to have been produced, or less than one-half last season's second largest recorded outturn and two-thirds the average of the early 1940's. Weather conditions were unfavorable this past season, with rain damaging the blossoms and lack of moisture causing immature olives to fall. Sizeable stocks plus this year's production, however, are expected to be sufficient for domestic requirements until the next crop becomes available.

For Spain, this season's output is one of the lowest for many years on record. Possibly not over 175,000 tons of olive oil were pressed--one-half last season's output and about one-half of the 5-year average. The summer-long drought and extreme heat were the principal causes of the decline in olive production. The Mediterranean fruit fly inflicted heavy damage in Jaen, the leading producing Province, not only reducing the volume of production but lowering the quality as well.

Stocks of oil in Spain are said to be low because of heavy exports throughout 1950. It is only through heavy imports of less expensive substitute oils that Spain can spare any olive oil for export in years of low production as domestic consumption is large--normally about 375,000 tons a year. The present rate of rationing is based on an annual consumption of 220,000 tons instead of the 330,000 tons generally considered to be the absolute minimum. Despite this season's poor crop, however, Spain expects to export some 35,000 tons of olive oil if satisfactory arrangements for the importation of sufficient quantities of soybean oil can be made. In 1950 substantial quantities of soybean oil were purchased from the United States.

Syria's olive oil output this season is unofficially estimated at 4,400 tons representing only 40 percent of last season's and only about one-half the average of the past 12 years. The greatly reduced olive crop was caused by extremely cold weather last spring that killed or severely damaged one-eight of all the olive trees. Nearly one-fourth of the olive trees were destroyed in the important Aleppo growing region of the north, which normally produces nearly one-half the olives of the country. In the Province of Latakia, where about one-third of the olives are produced, the crop was reduced by unfavorable spring weather.

The short crop and small carry-over are expected to lower consumption markedly. However, the 876 tons of edible oil imported in 1950-51--largely from Jordon--will help ease the supply situation.

Olive oil production in Lebanon is estimated at 2,200 tons, the smallest since 1946-47 and only about 30 percent of last season's outturn. Heavy spring rains destroyed the blossom buds of the olive trees. A sharp reduction from last year's normal consumption is expected during 1951.

Turkey's olive crop was expected to yield 50,000 tons of oil or 90 percent of last season's production and 7,600 tons more than the average output of the early 1940's. Olive trees which were badly damaged by frost in 1942 are reported to have recovered completely. Olive oil production may reach 80,000 tons within a few years because of more efficiency management of olive groves.

This season's production plus stocks of 13,000 to 15,000 tons from last season is sufficient to maintain the normal level of consumption and allow a surplus for export of approximately 10,000 tons.

Algeria's 1950-51 olive oil production is estimated unofficially at 20,000 tons. This is only 5,000 tons less than the output of the 2 previous years and 7,000 tons less than the 5-year average. Insects, principally the Dacus fly, caused fairly important losses in all 3 producing Departments of Algeria despite the improved methods of defense developed through a Government educational campaign.

Consumption of olive oil last season was estimated at 38,600 tons. However, because production of olive oil in Algeria supplies less than one-half the total domestic consumption of edible oil, some oil is imported. Since February 2, 1951, when a decree was issued to that effect, licenses are required for the export of all edible oils. Furthermore, since February 2--although independent of the decree issued that day--exporters are required to sign a written agreement stating they will stock and place at the disposal of the Government General the equivalent of 30 percent of their exports of edible oils to France and the countries of the French Union. This agreement is not required for exports of edible oils to other countries.

Total oil obtained by pressing in French Morocco is estimated at 13,000 tons against 16,500 last season and 12,200 produced on the 5-year average in the early 1940's. The olive crop in the North, especially the Fez area, was reportedly very good but in the South it was mediocre due to the long summer drought.

The olive oil will be absorbed in the domestic market, leaving no exportable surplus.

Tunisia's production this season is reported officially at 44,000 tons, a decrease of over 60 percent from last season but larger by 15 percent than the average outturn of the early years of 1940. Unfavorable weather and moth damage reduced the olive crop.

Production, however, is expected to cover domestic consumption needs--about 33,000 tons--and leave a small exportable surplus of some 15,000 tons.

Olive oil production in Libya estimated at 8,500 tons, is down slightly from the previous season but is about 3 1/2 times the 5-year average. Many of the 2 million olive trees planted by Italian settlers in Tripolitania gradually are coming into production, and it is estimated that in the next 10 years a sizeable surplus of oil will be available for export.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports of world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service reports.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

FATS AND OILS

INDONESIAN COPRA EXPORTS FIRST QUARTER 1951 ABOVE 1950

Exports of 20,335 long tons of copra from Indonesia during March raised first quarter shipments to 85,752 tons--nearly 65 percent above the 52,281 tons exported in the January-March quarter of 1950.

March shipments were consigned as follows: the Netherlands-17,711 tons, and Denmark-2,624 tons. Through March 31 the Netherlands had purchased three-fourths of the total exports.

Production of copra during March was reported at 32,183 tons with 27,557 tons produced in East Indonesia and 4,626 in West Borneo. Domestic oil mills purchased 9,190 tons of copra. Production and exports during April were forecast at 31,500 and 29,500 tons, respectively.

Copra was reported to be accumulating in the North Moluccas area and selling at very low prices because of the lack of buyers. In contrast, farmers in North Borneo abandoned their rice fields for copra-making due to the high prices received for copra, with the result that the food position deteriorated markedly in the early part of the year.

The Copra Commission whish was formed May 20, 1950, to study matters concerning the copra industry in Indonesia, was dissolved March 10, 1951. The Commission recommended that the name of the Copra Fund be changed to the Copra Foundation (see Foreign Crops and Markets, January 15, 1951) and suggested changes in the policy and method of financing the Foundation in order to step up production of copra and advance the prosperity of coconut growers. Cooperatives will play an important part in accomplishing these objectives, and the Foundation has set aside funds for development of coconut cooperatives throughout Indonesia under the management of the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

On March 1, the price paid for copra by Java oil mills was 180 gulden per 100 kilograms ($242 per long ton) c.i.f. Java ports, including the value of packing material. A maximum price for pressed oil was set at 3.20 gulden per kilogram (19.2 cents per pound) ex factory, including the turnover tax imposed after January 1, 1951.

PHILIPPINE COPRA AND COCONUT OIL EXPORTS 50 PERCENT HIGHER

Philippine exports of 42,104 long tons of copra and 5,243 tons of coconut oil during March 1951 brought the January-March shipment to a total of 196,315 tons in copra equivalent, indicating a 50 percent increase over shipments in the corresponding first quarter of 1950.

Copra was sent to the following countries: United States-21,866 tons (Atlantic--2,600, Pacific-19,266); Canada-1,800; Belgium-5,950; Denmark-1,000; Italy-500; Netherlands-500; Norway 1,500; Japan-2,518; and Guam-6,470 tons.

The United States purchased 2,880 tons of coconut oil, the Netherlands-500, Belgium-1,296, China-342, and Italy-225 tons.

In mid-April the copra export price was reported at $251 per short ton c.i.f. Pacific Coast. Local buying prices declined during the month to 45 to 46 pesos per 100 kilograms ($228.61 to $233.69 per long ton) in Manila and 43 to 47 pesos ($218.45 to $238.77) in producing areas.

INDIA PERMITS RESTRICTED EXPORTS OF PEANUTS AND PEANUT OIL

The Government of India has placed certain restrictions on all outstanding sales of peanuts and peanut oil now under registration with Export Trade Controllers at ports in India, according to R. Narayana Iyer, American Consulate General, Madras. This step was taken after the Andhra Chamber of Commerce, Madras, requested the Government to continue the export ban on peanuts and peanut oil "in the interests of the consumers and the Trade." The Chamber further urged that all outstanding sales registered with export licensing authorities be cancelled and the Trade notified accordingly.

The notification, dated March 29, 1951, contained the following provisions:

"(a) Exports of groundnuts to Switzerland will continue to be allowed, as hitherto, against registrations already made for shipment up to June 1951. Suitable extensions of shipment period will be granted in cases where shipment could not be made within the original registration period by the shippers concerned for good and valid reasons.

"(b) Export of groundnut oil and Hand Picked Selected groundnuts to Canada will be allowed up to 60 percent of the sales registered for shipment during the months of March to June 1951.

"(c) Export of groundnut oil to United Kingdom will be allowed up to 30 percent of the sales registered for shipment during March-June 1951.

"(d) Exports to destinations other than those mentioned above, will be allowed up to 25 percent of the sales registered for shipment during March to June 1951.

"(e) Shipment of groundnut oil to Italy will hereafter be allowed only up to 25 percent of the quantity outstanding against sales registered for shipment during March to June 1951. No shipment of groundnut oil to Italy will be allowed against sales registered for shipment before March 1951.

"Where the shipment period of any sale is a period of more than one month, the quantity that will be permitted during each month will, for the purposes of these orders, be arrived at by dividing the total quantity of the sale by the number of months comprised in the shipment period (even though in terms of the sale contract the shipper could ship the entire quantity of the sale in any one month); for example, a sale of 600 tons has been registered, say, for shipment during January to March 1951 the quantity due for shipment in March will be computed as 200 tons.

"As the month of March is just expiring, an extension by one month will be allowed in bona fide cases in respect of sales valid for shipment during March 1951."

Imposition of the export ban on February 24, 1951, (see Foreign Crops and Markets, April 2, 1951) already had decreased the price of peanut oil according to Chamber officials. Since the ban went into effect, the price per candy of 500 pounds dropped to Rupees 440 ($92.40) from Rupees 460 ($96.60). A further price decrease would result from the above action, according to the Chamber.

Until recent years, India had been the leading world exporter of peanuts and peanut oil. At present, however, it does not have an exportable surplus. Present exports have been maintained in compliance with bilateral trade agreements and to obtain needed foreign exchange.

Since India's 1950 peanut crop was below normal--an estimated 3,440,000 short tons of unshelled peanuts compared with 3,806,000 tons in 1949--the Andhra Chamber of Commerce suggested further that the exports of peanuts and peanut oil for the season beginning October 1, 1951, should be in limited quantities. It was also recommended that "the exportable quantities should be distributed among established exporters on a pro rata basis of previous year's shipments."

(Continued on Page 482)

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

WORLD WOOL PRICES DROP

The price for wool in the major markets has dropped about 25 percent below pre-Easter levels in the first half of April. This decline wipes out increases made since mid-January but prices are still considerably above the pre-Christmas levels.

A popular Australian type which averaged $2.48 per clean pound December 15 opened at $3.13 in mid-January. This type had increased to $3.52 before Easter and averaged about $2.85, at the Sydney Auction series of April 9 to 12. Various reasons for the break in price have been offered. Chief among them is the lack of United States participation and the tendency of other buyers to hold off buying until the market reaches a new level.

U.K. WOOL TEXTILE EXPORTS TO U.S. INCREASE

The value of United Kingdom exports of wool textile manufactures to the United States during January and February 1951 was $5.2 million, an increase of 65 percent over the $3.2 million for the same period in 1950 and 140 percent higher than the value of $2.2 million for the corresponding 2 months in 1949.

January-February 1951 exports of woolen cloth, worsted cloth and carpets were greater by both volume and value than in the same months in 1950 but shipments of tops, woolen yarn and worsted yarn were all lower in volume and value.

Total United Kingdom exports of wool manufactures for the 2-month period in 1951 were valued at $86.5 million compared to $55.5 for the same period in 1950.

In 1950 the United States took nearly $30 million, or about 7 percent of total exports of wool manufactures from the United Kingdom.

IRISH CATTLE TRADE DURING 1950

Traditionally, the export of live animals has constituted the backbone of Irish export trade. During 1950 this item increased in value by 8 percent, yet it made up only 42 percent of exports compared with 46 percent in 1949. The number of cattle shipped in 1950 amounted to 494,500 head, a 6 percent gain when compared with 468,100 head shipped in 1949. The only increase took place in the exportation of fat cattle. Although total Irish cattle exports in 1950 were considerably below 1939, the movement of fat cattle was greater. The number of feeder cattle, usually the more significant, actually declined as did also the numbers of milk cows and calves. This shift was partly the result of prices in the British market, but more the consequence of heavy shipments of fat cattle in the late summer and early fall when it was becoming apparent that the hay crop would be substantially less than necessary to carry the cattle population through the winter without serious loss.

Ireland: Total exports of live cattle during 1950, with comparison

Classification	1939	1947	1948	1949	1950 1/
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
Fat cattle	138.7	110.0	66.1	134.3	179.1
Store cattle	565.9	336.5	281.4	312.3	299.6
Milk cows & springers	78.2	36.0	24.6	21.4	15.7
Calves	1.1	0.3	2/	0.1	0.1
Total cattle	783.9	482.8	372.1	468.1	494.5

1/ Preliminary
2/ Less than 100 head
Compiled from Trade Statistics.

ARGENTINE DAIRY SITUATION

The year 1950 as a whole was favorable for Argentine dairy production. The exceptionally high milk production of the second half of the year which resulted from the heavy rainfalls and lush pastures, together with rising prices for milk, more than compensated for the reduced production in the first half, brought about by a severe drought, low ceiling prices for milk, high production costs and a prolonged dairy workers' strike. Production for the entire year was estimated at 9.1 billion pounds, compared with 7.8 billion pounds for 1949. Since fluid milk consumption remained practically the same as in previous years, most of the increased production went into the manufacture of dairy products.

Butter production in 1950 is estimated at approximately 112 million pounds, or 30 percent higher than a year ago. Exports in 1950 amounted to 20 million pounds and went mostly to France, Italy and the United Kingdom. Cheese production was 226 million pounds in 1950, compared with 218 million pounds during the previous year. Domestic consumption of cheese continued high in 1950 and exports amounted to only 14 million pounds, of which about 10 million pounds went to the United States. The output of casein in 1950 is estimated at 73 million pounds, most of which was exported, the United States taking 60 percent.

U.K. TO PAY MORE FOR BEST NEW ZEALAND BUTTER AND CHEESE

The New Zealand Dairy Products Marketing Commission announced on April 3 that the British Government has agreed to buy New Zealand's finest and first grade butter and cheese for the entire 1950-51 season at a 7 1/2 percent increase in price over the 1949-50 season. This increase is the maximum permitted under the bulk purchase contract between New Zealand and the United Kingdom.

	1950-51 (cents per pound)	1949-50 (cents per pound)
Butter, finest...............	33.94	31.56
Butter, first grade..........	33.78	31.41
Cheese, first grade..........	18.88	17.69

No change has occurred in the 10 percent of exportable butter and cheese that is available to markets outside the United Kingdom.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

PANAMA INCREASES RICE PRODUCTION

Panama's rice crop in 1950-51 is estimated at a new record of 190 million pounds of rough rice, according to Edward L. Tanner, Agricultural Attache, Panama. This is a 9-percent increase from the previous largest crop of a year earlier and is more than double the prewar (1935-36/39-40) production.

Indications are that some rice may be available for export in 1951. The crop, however, will be used primarily for consumption within the country. Panama's per capita rice consumption of around 150 pounds annually is exceptionally high compared with the average in the Western

Hemisphere countries. This is due to the fact that rice is produced on approximately 80 percent of Panama's farms. Here it is grown first for home consumption and the remainder is sold to the Banco Agro-Pecuario, the government marketing agency, and to private firms.

PANAMA: Rice production and imports,
averages 1935-36/44-45, annual 1947-48/50-51

Year	Acreage planted	Yield per acre	Production		Imports 1/ 2/	Production plus imports 1/ 2/
			Rough	In terms of milled		
	1,000 acres	Pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
1935-36/39-40..	50	1,440	72.0	47	7	54
1941-42/44-45..	79	1,320	104.3	68	10	78
1947-48......	128	1,050	134.4	87	12	99
1948-49......	134	1,240	166.1	108	3/	108
1949-50......	141	1,234	174.0	113	3/	113
1950-51......	143	1,327	189.7	123	-	-

1/ In terms of milled rice. 2/ For calendar year following harvest. 3/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

Compiled from official sources.

The rice production of Panama in the last 2 years has been sufficient for domestic consumption. Imports of rice before 1949 averaged around 10 million pounds annually. The increase in production, accomplished by concerted Government and private enterprise, is attributed to (1) a heavy import duty in some years which raises the retail price of rice above the world price basis, and (2) the use of power machinery and artificial dryers by several large growers who have recently entered rice production.

TOBACCO AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS

SOUTHERN RHODESIA'S TOBACCO FORECAST REVISED DOWNWARD; EXPORTS INCREASED

A revised preliminary estimate places Southern Rhodesia's 1950-51 tobacco production about 27 percent below the 1949-50 harvest according to A.E. Gray, Consul General, American Consulate, Salisbury. Exports of unmanufactured tobacco during 1950 was 31 percent above 1949.

The country's 1950-51 tobacco harvest is tentatively estimated at 78.1 million pounds compared with 106.7 million pounds in 1949-50. An earlier forecast for Southern Rhodesia's 1950-51 tobacco crop placed the total between 125 and 130 million pounds, but drought conditions lowered the estimate substantially. The 1950-51 acreage planted to tobacco totaled 173,770 acres or 12 percent above the 1949-50 total of 154,580 acres. Yield per acre for 1950-51 is expected to total only 450 pounds compared with last season's 690 pounds per acre. Flue-cured leaf is expected to constitute about 99 percent or 77.4 million pounds of the 1950-51 leaf harvest. Fire-cured and other leaf are expected to make up the other 1 percent or about 708,000 pounds. In 1949-50 flue-cured constituted 99 percent or 105.5 million pounds of the total harvest and fire-cured made up the other 1 percent or 1.2 million pounds.

Exports of unmanufactured tobacco in 1950 totaled 89.3 million pounds as compared to 67.9 million pounds in 1949. The United Kingdom, the most important 1950 outlet took 60.7 million pounds or 68 percent of all unmanufactured tobacco exports. The remaining 28.6 million pounds were taken in varying quantities by numerous other countries including the Netherlands, Denmark, Ireland, Australia, Belgian Congo, Egypt, British West Indies, Germany, and the United States.

Southern Rhodesia's manufactured tobacco imports during 1950 consisted of 15,000 pounds of unmanufactured tobacco, 27,490 pounds of cigarettes, 8,605 pounds of cigars, 19,892 pounds of smoking tobacco and 750 pounds of snuff.

SYRIAN TOBACCO PRODUCTION REVISED UPWARD

A revised estimate places Syria's 1950 tobacco crop at more than twice the size of 1949 production, according to J. F. Crawford, Agricultural Attache, and M. Bekhash, American Legation, Beirut.

Syria's 1950 tobacco harvest is now estimated at 16.8 million pounds as compared with an earlier estimate of 14.9 million pounds. Leaf production in 1949 was 7.3 million pounds. Acreage planted to tobacco in 1950 was about 20,500 acres compared with 14,158 acres in 1949. Average yield per acre in 1950 was 821 pounds compared with 514 pounds per acre in 1949.

Increases in 1950 production occurred in all major types of leaf. The greatest increase in Abou Riha (Latakia) leaf, Syria's principal export type. Production of Latakia is reported at 9.9 million pounds compared with 3.1 million pounds in 1949. Seiek-el-Bent, the second most important type grown this year, increased from 3.4 million pounds in 1949 to over 5.9 million pounds in 1950. The production of Tombac (water pipe tobacco) totaled 844,362 pounds in 1950 compared with 771,610 pounds in 1949. Hassan Keif production totaled over 44,000 pounds in 1950 compared with 11,000 pounds in 1949.

BRITISH GUIANA'S TOBACCO IMPORTS HIGHER

British Guiana's 1950 leaf imports were 11 percent above 1949 according to T. E. Burke, Vice Consul, American Consulate, Georgetown.

The country's leaf imports during 1950 totaled 642,600 pounds compared with 580,800 pounds in 1949. The United States, the most important source, supplied 321,300 pounds or 50 percent of the total during 1950. Canada, and other Dominion countries supplied the bulk of the remaining leaf. Other tobacco imports during 1950 consisted of 9,700 pounds of cigarettes, 700 pounds of cigars, and 5,247 pounds of other manufactured tobacco. In 1949 British Guiana imported 11,200 pounds of cigarettes, 500 pounds of cigars, and 5,300 pounds of other manufactured tobacco. The United Kingdom and Possessions supplied practically all of British Guiana's manufactured tobacco in 1950.

The country's leaf production in 1949-50 is estimated unofficially at 31,200 pounds or 13 percent below the 1948-49 harvest of 36,000 pounds. In comparison the 1947-48 harvest was 30,000 pounds.

MEXICAN 1950-51 COFFEE PRODUCTION HIGHER; 1950 EXPORTS SLIGHTLY LOWER

Total coffee production in Mexico from the 1950-51 coffee crop is estimated at about 1,065,000 bags, compared with around 950,000 bags in 1949-50, 1,100,000 bags in 1948-49, and a prewar (1935-39) annual average of 959,000 bags, according to S. E. Bakewell, American Embassy, Mexico City. High coffee prices have resulted in a decrease in Mexican coffee consumption to around 250,000 bags annually; therefore, the 1950-51 harvest should provide about 815,000 bags of coffee for export to foreign markets.

Exports of coffee from Mexico in 1950 amounted to 766,993 bags valued at $38,577,803. This represented a decrease of 5 percent in quantity and an increase of 46 percent in value over record 1949 shipments of 818,115 bags valued at $26,475,954. Coffee ranks second only to ginned cotton in importance as an agricultural export from Mexico.

About 96 percent of Mexico's coffee exports went to the United States in 1950, compared with 98 percent in 1949, 99 percent in 1948, and 62 percent in the prewar period. Exports to Europe in 1950 amounted to 17,468 bags, compared with 3,689 bags in 1949 and a prewar annual average of 228,747 bags.

MEXICO: Exports of green coffee, 1950 with comparisons 1/

Destination	Average 1935-39	1948	1949 2/	1950 2/
	Bags	Bags	Bags	Bags
United States	369,406	521,869	803,257	737,534
Other America	534	-	11,157	3/ 11,948
Europe	228,747	1,865	3,689	17,468
Other	523	1	12	43
Total	599,210	523,735	818,115	766,993

1/ In bags of 132.28 pounds each. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Canada.

Reports of U. S. Foreign Service Officers.

Attrative coffee prices have stimulated exports of available stocks of washed coffee and, in addition, large amounts of unwashed coffee normally consumed in Mexico. Eagerness to export is reflected in total shipments of 352,902 bags during the first four months of the 1950-51 crop year (October to January) compared with exports of 293,438 bags during the corresponding period in 1949-50.

FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND NUTS

MADAGASCAR LIMA BEAN CROP IN 1950 IS 39 PERCENT OF PREWAR

The 1950 lima bean crop in Madagascar is estimated at 176,000 bags according to a recent report from Sidney Weintraub, American Vice Consul, Tananarive. This is 28 percent larger than the 1949 crop of 138,000 bags, but 35 percent below the 1940-44 average of 273,000 bags and 61 percent below the 1935-39 average of 449,000 bags.

The 1949 crop was hard hit by severe drought in the producing areas and there was only partial recovery of production in 1950 from the low 1949 level. Exportable supplies of lima beans were estimated as of the end of March 1951 at 9,000 to 11,000 bags of No. 3 grade. About 21,500 bags of No. 1 and 2 grade limas had been sold prior to the end of March to other countries including the United Kingdom, Maurintius and Australia.

Commercial circles in Madagascar report that, barring unfavorable growing conditions in 1951, the crop may reach 330,000 bags or almost double the 1950 level. If it does reach this level, and if supplies of other foods are reasonably plentiful in Madagascar, there may be 175,000 to 200,000 bags of lima beans available for export this coming winter. The lima bean crop in Madagascar is usually harvested in September and October and exported from November to March.

Kidney shaped beans similar to the usual types grown in the United States are also produced in Madagascar and are referred to as haricots. The 1950 crop of haricots was estimated at 443,000 bags or 37 percent above 1949 and 10 percent below the prewar 1935-39 average. These beans are less important than lima beans in the export trade of Madagascar. For example, in 1950 exports were 91,000 bags of lima beans compared to 47,000 bags of haricots. Reunion took 64 percent of the lima beans exported, and 66 percent of the haricots. The United Kingdom was the second largest taker of lima beans with 20,000 bags and France the second largest taker of haricots with 13,000 bags.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBER

AUSTRALIAN 1950-51 COTTON IMPORTS SHOW LARGE INCREASE

Imports of cotton into Australia during the first 5 months of the current season were about 50 percent larger than during the corresponding period of 1949-50. A shift has occurred in the sources of supply during the 2 periods. In 1949-50 only about 15 percent of cotton imports originated in sterling-area countries, primarily India, Pakistan, and Egypt, while 85 percent came from the dollar area, almost all from Brazil. In contrast, in 1950-51 about two-thirds originated in the sterling area, with one-third imported from the dollar area. Largest increases occurred in imports from Pakistan and Egypt, and to a lesser degree from India. No United States cotton was received during the 5-month period.

The cotton area to be harvested in Australia in 1950-51 is estimated at about 6,000 acres, more than double the 2,700 acres harvested in 1949-50. This estimate is based on the quantity of seed distributed by the Cotton Marketing Board. Production is expected to reach more than 1,500 bales (500 pounds gross weight), about 85 percent above the 1949-50 crop of 838 bales. This estimate is far below the record crop of 19,000 bales produced in 1933-34 but represents a slight upward trend from the low level of 530 bales reported in 1948-49. The present estimate of production was based on a yield of 125 pounds of lint per acre, the average for the past 5 seasons, although yields in 1949-50 reached 149 pounds per acre. Therefore, if yields should vary from the 5-year average during the current season, an appropriate adjustment would have to be made in the total production.

Cotton cultivation in Australia is done without irrigation and is limited almost entirely to the Province of Queensland in northeastern Australia. Some attempt has been made at growing cotton under irrigation in western Australia, but commercial production has not been undertaken as yet. The high level of world cotton prices provided a strong inducement for expansion of cotton acreage in 1950-51 but a chronic shortage of labor and normally low yields discourage any heavy investment. The Government established a guaranteed price of about 9 cents a pound for seed cotton (equivalent to around 27 cents a pound for lint) in 1950. While this price is not operative at present because of higher market prices, it is felt that the guarantee of a profitable minimum price will help to encourage production of cotton over a period of years.

AUSTRALIA: Cotton imports by country of origin; averages 1934-38 and 1939-43; annual 1948 and 1949; August-December 1949 and 1950

(Bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of origin	Year beginning August 1				Aug.-Dec.	
	Averages		1948	1949	1949	1950 1/
	1934-38	1939-43				
United States	5,554	12,899	5,170	0	0	1
United Kingdom	58	66	113	57	40	0
Brazil	0	1,925	28,665	37,567	19,892	11,373
Peru	53	74	63	553	143	310
China	1,293	24	0	0	0	0
India	7,662	27,933	25,661	6,072	1,945	3,364
Pakistan	2/	2/	1,143	14,542	970	17,009
Belgian Congo	0	3,886	621	0	0	0
Br. East Africa	26	3,244	0	0	0	0
Egypt	183	4,553	11,022	2,978	787	3,492
Sudan	0	764	0	0	0	0
Other countries	315	773	62	0	0	196
Total	15,144	56,141	72,520	61,769	23,777	35,745

1/ Preliminary. 2/ Not available until 1947-48.

Source: U. S. Foreign Service reports.

Revised data have placed 1949-50 consumption in Australia at about 70,000 bales, more than 5,000 bales greater than previously reported and considerably above the 59,000 bales consumed in 1948-49. Stocks on August 1, 1950, have been reduced accordingly by about 5,000 bales to 22,000 as compared with 29,000 bales on that date in 1949. No data are available on consumption or stocks during the current season.--By John E. Manger, based in part on a report by Thomas C. M. Robinson, American Consulate, Sydney.

COTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS ON WORLD MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on world markets converted at current rates of exchange.

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, U.S. gulf-port average, and taxes incident to exports

Market location kind, and quality	Date 1951	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound: Spot quotation	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound: Export and intermediate taxes
Alexandria		Kantar				
Ashmouni, Good	4-19	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	121.10	70.20	11.83
Ashmouni, FGF	"	"	"	104.35	60.49	11.83
Karnak, Good	"	"	"	168.05	97.41	11.83
Karnak, FGF	"	"	"	152.05	88.14	11.83
Bombay		Candy				
Jarila, Fine	"	784 lbs.	Rupee	1/ 770.00	20.50	21.30
Broach Vijay, Fine	"	"	"	1/ 840.00	22.36	21.30
Karachi		Maund				
4F Punjab, SG, Fine	4-18	82.28 lbs.	"	110.00	40.33	23.09
289F Sind, SG, Fine	"	"	"	116.00	42.53	23.09
289F Punjab, SG, Fine	"	"	"	130.00	47.66	23.09
Buenos Aires		Metric ton				
Type B	4-19	2204.6 lbs.	Peso	2/ 8800.00	79.83	7.45
Lima		Sp. quintal				
Tanguis, Type 3-1/2	4-17	101.4 lbs.	Sol	685.00	45.18	29.35
Tanguis, Type 5	"	"	"	(not	quoted)	
Pima, Type 1	"	"	"	850.00	56.06	39.11
Recife		Arroba				
Mata, Type 4	4-19	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	2/ 390.00	64.16	2.4% ad
Sertao, Type 5	"	"	"	(not	quoted)	valorem
Sertao, Type 4	"	"	"	2/ 410.00	67.45	" "
Sao Paulo						
Sao Paulo, Type 5	"	"	"	380.00	62.52	3.0% ad
Torreon		Sp. quintal				valorem
Middling, 15/16"	"	101.4 lbs.	Peso	545.00	62.13	12.07
Houston-Galveston-New Orleans av. Mid. 15/16"	"	Pound	Cent	XXXXX	44.86	----

Quotations of foreign markets and taxes reported by cable from U.S. Foreign Service posts abroad. U.S. quotations from designated spot markets.

1/ Ceiling price.

2/ Nominal.

FATS AND OILS

(Continued from Page 472)

AZORES RESUMES SPERM OIL INDUSTRY

Sperm oil production in the Azores was resumed during the second half of 1950 after both European and American markets offered "compensatory prices", according to William C. George, American Consulate, Ponta Delgada. Lack of capital, overflowing storage facilities, and a dull market brought the industry to a standstill by the end of 1949.

Production of sperm oil during the second half of 1950 amounted to about 1,100 short tons compared with an estimated 1,300 tons in 1949. The Azore's whaling season usually begins in March or April-and, weather permitting, as early as February-and lasts until November. Capacity production is expected in 1951, provided open markets are maintained and present demand continues.

To offset the difficulties experienced by the sperm oil industry in the Azores in recent years, the Portuguese Government issued on September 11, 1950, Decree No. 37959, eliminating export taxes on sperm oil. Likewise, by decree of November 14, 1950, import duties were waived on all machinery imported by Armacoes Baleeiras Reunidas, Lda., of Pico, for the manufacture of by-products of the whale oil industry, provided such machinery was not obtainable in Portugal at a cost not greater than 10 percent over the imported machinery.

The Azores' stocks of sperm oil which posed a storage problem a year ago because of lack of market outlets (see Foreign Crops and Markets of April 10, 1950) was sold readily following the outbreak of war in Korea last June.

ARGENTINA'S OLIVE OIL OUTPUT by 1960 MAY EXCEED 14,000 TONS [1]

Argentina has good prospects for producing some 14,000 short tons of olive oil annually in the next few years--over 4 times the 3,300 tons produced now--reports C. A. Boonstra, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Buenos Aires. In fact some observers forecast serious overproduction by 1960 if olive tree planting continues at the present rate.

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[1] A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular available from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

They point out that Argentine annual imports and consumption of olive oil have declined sharply from the 55,000 tons or more before 1930 to an annual average of some 14,000 tons in the prewar years 1936-40. During World War II yearly consumption, all from the domestic crop, was less than 1,100 tons.

Plantings of olive trees in Argentina have increased sharply in the last decade 1/. An official survey as of July 31, 1948 determined that there were nearly 5,240,000 trees in the country. A more recent count has revealed that in 1950 there were nearly 6,740,000 trees. Thus 1.5 million trees have been planted since 1948--an increase of roughly 30 percent.

The potential output of olives in another 10 years--assuming a per-tree yield of about 28 pounds after a tree reaches an age of 7 or more years--is estimated at 88,000 tons, more than 4 times the 1949-50 output. This would be more than sufficient to meet the annual prewar consumption requirement of 14,000 tons of oil, assuming an oil yield of 18 percent, and would be more than enough for the 6,600 tons of green and ripe olives consumed each year.

Prices paid for olive oil by Argentine consumers have been from 2 to 3 times as high as those for other vegetable oils. They ranged in late 1950 from 10 to 15 pesos per liter, considerably higher than the approximate average price of 5 pesos for other vegetable oils.

Nearly half of the olives are produced in Mendoza Province.

1/ Olives produced in Argentina until recent years are believed to have been used largely for consumption in green or ripe form.